



Capt. Douglas Russell, programme manager for the U.S. Coast Guard's Integrated DEEPWATER System (IDS), engages with industry representatives following his presentation at the SEA SHIELD Conference in Arlington, Va., Oct. 5. Russell described how the DEEPWATER Programme was critical to the U.S. Coast Guard's ability to perform its post-9/11 "world of work" as effectively and affordably as possible.

(Photo: Gordon I. Peterson)

## DEEPWATER, SEA SHIELD, AND MARITIME SECURITY

Gordon I. Peterson<sup>1</sup> reports on a conference held in Arlington, Va. on SEA SHIELD in early October. SEA SHIELD is part of the Chief of Naval Operations' SEA POWER 21 naval vision – a future in which naval forces will provide the United States with sea-based theatre and strategic defence. "Traditionally, naval defense has protected the unit, the fleet, and the sea lines of communication", Clark wrote in the Naval Institute's *PROCEEDINGS* magazine. "Tomorrow's Navy will do much more."

### SIGNIFICANCE OF SEA SHIELD FOR THE U.S. COAST GUARD

So too will tomorrow's U.S. Coast Guard do much more when it is recapitalised through the Integrated DEEPWATER System. A modern, transformed Coast Guard will bring new and important capabilities to the fore in all of its multiple missions – when operating as a component of the Department of Homeland Security as well as when it operates in support of the U.S. Navy and the Department of Defense under its statutory "Title 10" national-defence responsibil-

ities. This transformation has important implications for the Coast Guard, U.S. naval power, and the U.S. homeland in the post-9/11 era.

That was the message that Capt. Douglas Russell, programme manager for the U.S. Coast Guard's Integrated DEEPWATER System, told an audience of approximately 200 international naval officers and industry representatives at a SEA SHIELD Conference in Arlington, Va., on Oct. 5, organised by the Global Defense Institute. "Since 9/11, our maritime challenges have changed", Russell said. "Today's asymmetric threats mean that our world of work in the Coast Guard also has changed in many ways."

In addition to its traditional missions in marine safety, law enforcement, environmental protection, and fisheries enforcement, the U.S. Coast Guard's responsibilities for homeland security and homeland defence have grown exponentially since 9/11. DEEPWATER's additional capabilities and capacity are critical to the U.S. Coast Guard's ability to sustain mission performance into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in nearly all of these multiple missions. As U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Thomas H. Collins noted recently, "DEEPWATER is the future of the Coast Guard." The U.S. Coast Guard, with statutory responsibilities for both homeland security as well as homeland defence, is the one branch of the U.S. armed forces that straddles the seam between each mission area. For this reason, it is imperative that its cutters, aircraft, and systems are seamlessly interoperable with other federal agencies, the Navy, local authorities, and international maritime forces. "C4ISR is the backbone to do SEA SHIELD right", Russell said, in describing DEEPWATER's system for command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (C4ISR).

### COMPLEMENTARY ROLE OF THE USN AND USCG

In describing the purpose and scope of DEEPWATER's system-of-systems recapitalisation, Russell described for the audience the status of each programme in the surface, air, C4ISR, and integrated logistics domains. He noted the important co-operation existing between the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Navy in developing compatible, complementary platforms and systems through the DEEPWATER programme and the Navy's Littoral Combat Ship programme in support of the National Fleet policy. "We can – and will – work as one Fleet", he said. "Passing information through our C4 architecture is the bottom line to make it possible."

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